

# HOW MUCH DOES HOUSECLEANING COST YOU?

**Too Much, Says a Pratt Institute Expert, if You Are One of Those Who Try Every Cleaning Preparation and Household Appliance on the Market—Reduce Expense and Labor to a Minimum by Intelligent Selection of a Few Real Labor Savers, Devotion to Soap and Water, and Avoidance of Weekly or Semi-Annual Upheavals.**

By DORIS E. FLEISCHMAN.

Rent .....	\$50
Food .....	70
Service .....	25
Doctors and medicines and things .....	25
Recreation, presents, etc. ....	10
Clothes .....	25
Miscellaneous .....	15

JANE paused, pencil poised aloft, and looked happily at the list she had just made out. "Marie," she called, "come here. Wait a minute," she added carefully and then allowed her face to assume an air of complete satisfaction.

"Marie, there will be \$3 left over every month."

"What will you do with it?" asked Marie.

"I don't know," she said. "Don't think of showing it to John as it is. In the first place, you haven't the right proportions," and she quoted bewildering tables of percentages gathered from economics textbooks. "And besides you haven't all your items included. For one

thing, you aren't saving anything."

"Three dollars," Jane reminded, but Marie was obdurate.

"You have no item for the care and cleaning of your house."

Jane blinked. "Why—why, that would come under miscellaneous."

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cludes the labor involved as closely as it can be reckoned.

"Even if the woman is doing all her own work she should put a valuation on her labor. If her husband earns \$1,800 a year the combined income is \$1,800 plus the value of the work she does in cleaning, sewing and cooking," said Miss MacLeod. "I am not talking from a feminist standpoint. And I am not advocating the payment of wages to wives. But as a matter of science I believe that every woman's work should be rated. In this way it is easy to understand how anything up to \$35 might be expended in the cleaning of a home whose rental was \$50 a month."

But the actual expenditure for articles for household cleaning need not be large. Certainly each article is in itself inexpensive. It

ing of the sort. Your limited knowledge of facts impels me to advise you to undertake a course in housekeeping before you marry John. And one of the first things that you will learn," and she poked her finger at "rent"—

"Well?" asked Jane.

"... is that women spend from one-quarter to one-half as much as they spend on rent on the cleaning and incidental repairing of their homes."

In the light of these devastating statements Jane was won over to a belief in Housekeeping, a Science. She took the subway to Brooklyn and joined what is known as the "June brides' class" at Pratt Institute.

Jane, of course, knew very little about the care of a home. But Miss Sarah MacLeod finds a fair uniformity of ignorance in the engaged and young married girls whom she is leading along the paths of knowledge. She brightens their way with seemingly startling facts, such as the one pertaining to the huge cost of cleaning a house. But this cost of cleaning is merely the great number of them that makes the cost mount.

And it is this very inexpensiveness of the individual articles that makes for extravagance and that makes the average housewife expend far too much money for cleaning. This does not mean that she keeps her home too clean. That laurel rests with the Dutch. But she spends money for cleaning preparations which she might with a little effort make for herself at a very great decrease of cost.

Household ammonia is sold for about 10 or 12 cents a bottle. But this bottle is of varying size and varying strength. If one buys concentrated ammonia, perhaps half a pint of it, for 12½ cents, one has two quarts of it, but two quarts of assured strength. This was tested in a laboratory, and it was found that by mixing it one's self one pays 75 cents a pound for the ammonia gas and that one pays at the rate of \$5 a pound for the gas in household ammonia.

Brass polish is expensive. But one can make it easily with rotten stone and save money. Various germicide and antiseptic fluids are very expensive. A solution of washing soda will clean pipes just as effectively. It will take away odors and grease, and if one flushes the pipes afterward with hot water there will be no injury to them from the soda. Soda solution is less expensive than commercial preparations with fanciful names. Many housewives imagine that the more they pay for an article the better it is. But more often than not they are mistaken.

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The cheapest, the most effective and the most neglected of articles is plain soap and water. The June brides are taught, first of all, the varied uses of this too often forgotten source of cleanliness. Hardwood floors, unless they have been waxed, should be cleaned with soap and water to remove the grease, and then should be dried off at once to prevent staining. Doors that are in constant use, the arms of chairs and wooden railings should be washed carefully and meagrely before polishing. Glass table tops, a great labor saving device, should be washed with soap and water, but with a cloth that has been wrung out, so that no moisture may run under the glass and injure the wood or fabric.

Labor saving devices are invaluable. Vacuum cleaners, whether electric or not, clean a room as no other process will. The absurdity of raising dust merely to allow it to settle again has long been known. But it is well to be certain that a labor saving device does save labor and is not merely an article which can be used once or twice a year and must then be taken care of the remaining 360-odd days.

System is the greatest labor saving device. "Eliminate the spring cleaning," says Miss MacLeod. "It is a torture for the cleaner and the householders. Keep your house clean instead of making it dirty. Have a spring house cleaning four or five days a week and there will be no dread weekly cleanings or yearly cleanings."

This eliminates, too, the old method of having a thorough cleaning from attic to cellar once a week. Clean one or two rooms in a morning—sweeping, scrubbing, polishing, window washing and all the rest of it. Then no one set of muscles will get tired and the mind will not weary with doing one process for too great a period. Thus the work will be moderately easy every day instead of overpowering on certain days.

Monday, wash day, is fast passing out of the calendar. Wash day should be spread over four or five days, so that a little is done each day and the drudgery is perceptibly lessened.

"A stitch in time saves nine." An old proverb is again being impressed upon the youthful mind. Jane is learning that if she sees a thread loose at the end of a rug it would be well for her to take needle and thread and catch the thread, to save the remaking of the entire edging that neglect would eventually necessitate. If the upholstery gives way at one spot a tack carefully administered will pre-

vent a costlier damage. There is too much fear of a little paint brush in the average housekeeper.

Cleanliness in a house is noticeable only through the lack of it. One never stops to observe that a room is clean. Thus, cleaning in one respect is love's labor lost. But intelligence and judgment will change it from a hated luxury to a priceless instrument against germs and destruction.

Try One of These for Lunch

**Cheese with Potato Puffs.**  
One cup mashed potatoes, one-quarter cup milk, one egg, salt, one-half cup grated cheese.  
Beat the potatoes and milk together until thoroughly blended, and the egg and the salt. Add cheese, and bake in muffin pans in a slow oven for twelve minutes.

**Mushroom Pudding.**  
Three-fourths of a pound of mushrooms, one teaspoonful of salt, one-quarter teaspoonful of pepper, two ounces of butter, four ounces of potatoes, four ounces of peas.  
Trim mushrooms and cut them up. Sprinkle over them the salt and pepper. Fry in butter for five minutes. Put on the lid of the saucepan and cook gently until the mushrooms are tender. Cut the potatoes into small dice. Butter a baking pan and line it with pastry. Put in the vegetables in layers; cover with pastry. Put a piece of buttered paper on top; cover with a pudding dish. Boil for two hours. Turn on a hot dish and serve. This makes enough for four or five persons.

**Nut Cutlets.**  
One-fourth pound of lentils, two ounces of almonds, one-fourth ounce of butter, one-fourth ounce of flour, one egg.  
Cook lentils and rub through a sieve. Blanch and grind the almonds. Make a batter with the butter and flour, add the lentils, almonds and any desired seasoning. Mix well and turn onto plate. Make in a flat shape. Divide into six equal portions, making into cutlet shapes. Roll in beaten egg and bread crumbs. Fry in deep fat. Serve with tomato sauce.

**Pickled Beet Root.**  
Two beet roots, pepper, salt and vinegar. Wash the beet root, taking care not to break the surface. Bake in a slow oven for about three hours. When cold peel and slice thin, sprinkle with pepper and salt, pour over a little vinegar. Leave for a few hours before serving.

**Sautéed Green Peas.**  
One pint of shelled peas, two ounces of butter,

one-half teaspoonful of chopped mint. Boil the peas until nearly tender. Strain. Melt the butter in a saucepan; add the peas and mint. Sauté for five minutes. Serve at once.

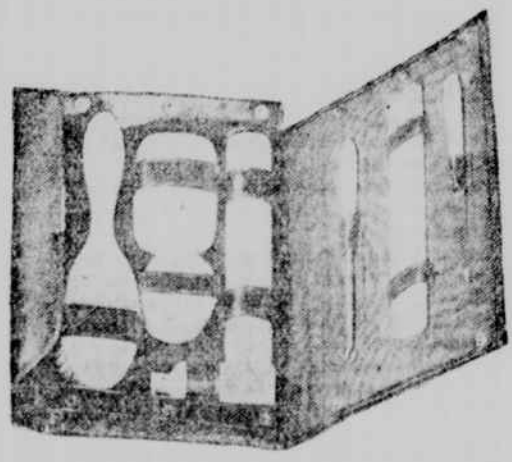
**Potato Loaves.**  
One pound potatoes, boiled and mashed; one ounce butter, one teaspoon milk, one egg, butter, salt and cayenne pepper, two teaspoons chopped parsley.  
Add butter, milk, egg, parsley and seasoning to cold boiled mashed potatoes. Turn out and roll thin. Divide into equal portions and make each into a loaf. Put onto a buttered baking sheet, glaze with the white of an egg. Bake in a quick oven for five or ten minutes.

**Cheese Aigrettes.**  
One-fourth pound flour, two ounces butter, one-half pint water, two eggs and one yolk, two ounces grated cheese, pepper, salt and cayenne.  
Put butter and water into saucepan; when boiling, add the flour and cook until the mixture leaves the sides of the pan. Take from the fire, add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Add the cheese and seasoning. Turn onto plate, divide into rough pieces about the size of a walnut and fry in deep fat to a golden brown. Drain well and serve at once. The fat must not be too hot, as it will take about five minutes to cook through.

**Macedoine of Vegetables in Aspic.**  
Four ounces tomatoes, twelve ounces cooked butter beans, two hard-boiled eggs, one pint aspic jelly.  
Skin tomatoes and slice. Skin butter beans. Rub the yolks of eggs through the sieve and cut the white into dice. Put a little jelly into a plain mould and when set decorate with white and yolk of egg. Put in a little more jelly to set the decoration, and then the rest of the vegetables in layers. Fill up the mould with the rest of the jelly and leave until set. Turn out and serve on lettuce leaves with any preferred salad dressing.

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

A toilet-case of morocco leather, in colors, designed especially for women. It is lined with moreen to match, and closes flat with snap-fastenings, with a handle at the top. The fittings are of white ivory-celluloid, and comprise a hair brush, comb, button hook, nail file, tooth powder holder, soap box, salve jar and tooth and nail brush container. 7/4 x 9 1/2 x 1 3/4 inches, folded. Price, \$8.50.



## SLIGHT MISDEEDS OFTEN INDICATE MORAL CRISES

**Naughtiness and Jealousy May Be Merely Symptomatic of the Loneliness and Neglect a Child Experiences When a New Little Brother Arrives—Falsehood or Theft Requires Sympathetic as Well as Firm Handling.**

Every one noticed it and wondered at it. But no one did anything, for no one knew what to do; and, besides, the new baby did take so much time and thought. For several weeks Dorothy was a "changed child." But gradually she recovered herself, and everybody was relieved. While it lasted, however, her "spell" was most annoying to all who had anything to do with her.

A child of two or three years that has been receiving the attention of all her associates constantly feels that something is wrong when this attention is suddenly withdrawn. And if this attention is transferred to another child there is likely to develop the same kind of jealousy as is sometimes found with "unreasonable" animals like cats and dogs. This uncomfortable feeling is just as unreasonable in the child and probably much more distressing. The manifestations of it are sometimes amusing, but that is hardly a reason for cultivating it. In Dorothy's case (and there are hundreds like it) this jealousy is aggravated by the fact that the child's whole scheme of life is broken up by the advent of the new baby. The neglect is not merely an injury to the child's self-regard; it deranges all of the regular activities to which she has become habituated. Again, mother and perhaps other members of the family are preoccupied and give poor Dorothy little or no very cordial answers. All of these things conspire to make the child "naughty"; and this, instead of bringing her the sympathy she so much needs, only estranges people from her the more.

Is it possible to give Theodore all the at-

tention that he needs and still avoid disconcerting and distressing Dorothy? It is possible that this little girl had more attention than was good for her before the brother came; but in any case she was in need of sympathy and understanding to help her adjust herself to the new situation, and these she did not get. The crisis in the life of Dorothy did not shake her soul very deeply, although it was serious enough for her. When children are older the effects of our actions and of our failures to act in times of crisis are likely to reach much further.



"Mother hardly ever looked at Dorothy now."

Roland and Harold were brought up very properly, so that they did not discover "comic supplements" until they were nine or ten years old. But when they did make the discovery their desires were aroused and their hearts were set upon comic supplements. The parents would have none of such about the house, and the two cousins resorted to strategy. They sequestered the longed for sheets from a neighbor's doorstep on the way to Sunday school. They were not caught, and so they tried it again. And still again. They almost acquired the habit. But through the impulse

to boast that has been the ruin of so many evildoers Roland let the secret out to his sister, and she dutifully reported to the mother. It was a delicate situation: no one relishes confronting another with direct evidence of guilt or even with a suspicion, especially when the other is loved. But Roland's mother grasped the situation firmly and got the boys to confess. They were very much ashamed of themselves. They thought of the discomfiture of the old lady, who looked in vain for her comic supplement three Sundays running. They had even thought of the injustice to the newsdealer, who might have been suspected or accused of withholding the treasured pages. What was to be done? The boys were required to call upon the injured neighbor with apologies and offers of restitution; it came hard, but the bitter pill had to be swallowed. In the meanwhile the mother called on the neighbor herself to make sure that the solemn visit did not turn into a fiasco. The old lady did not care about the papers and had not missed them; but she was willing to play her part of the game, and the boys were very much impressed. When the interview was over the neighbor declared that she would be glad to let them see her funny papers any time they asked her for them. But the important conclusion was that Roland and Harold were rehabilitated morally. There was no mitigation of their misdeeds, but there was no casting into outer darkness, either. A crisis had been safely passed.

Crisis come into the lives of children in most unexpected ways, and the problem of the



"Albert asked for a quarter to buy a pair of mittens and bought a toy pistol instead."

parent is to meet them when they come so as to take up the shock and the strain. Some day a little brain behind an unclouded brow will concoct a deliberate falsehood, as when Albert asked for a quarter to buy a pair of mittens and bought a toy pistol instead. Then it is necessary to manifest disapproval so impressively and so unmistakably that the child cannot remain in doubt as to what we think of his act. But we must do all this without intimating that his is a lost soul or that we are tempted to withdraw our affection. And so with the great disobedience or the secret venture or what not. Always the child must be made to feel that he is understood. Where there is forgiveness it must be obviously from love and understanding and not from indifference. To forgive without seeming to indulge, to reprove without losing affection, to change our relations and remain just as intimate, these are the tasks that every critical situation presents to parents.



"They sequestered the longed for sheets from a neighbor's doorstep."

By SIDONIE MATZNER GRUENBERG.

TO THE mother of Dorothy came another gift from God, and father informed Dorothy that she was to have a little brother. A brother was a novelty to the little girl, and she looked forward to the ownership of a real live doll with very pleasurable anticipation. Presently mother came home from the hospital with baby Theodore, and then the trouble began. In the first place, the little brother was not Dorothy's own, as she had expected he would be; he was carefully guarded from her hands, and